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**From:** Haugrud, Kevin  
**Sent:** 2017-05-16T14:22:41-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 5/16/17  
**Received:** 2017-05-16T14:22:44-04:00

Thanks.

On Tue, May 16, 2017 at 2:15 PM, Jorjani, Daniel <[daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov](mailto:daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov)> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Domenech, Douglas** <[douglas\\_domenech@ios.doi.gov](mailto:douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Date:** Tue, May 16, 2017 at 2:11 PM  
**Subject:** Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 5/16/17  
**To:** Scott Hommel <[scott\\_hommel@ios.doi.gov](mailto:scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov)>, Nancy Guiden <[nancy\\_guiden@ios.doi.gov](mailto:nancy_guiden@ios.doi.gov)>, "Mashburn, Lori" <[lori\\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov](mailto:lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov)>, Daniel Jorjani <[daniel\\_jorjani@ios.doi.gov](mailto:daniel_jorjani@ios.doi.gov)>, James Cason <[james\\_cason@ios.doi.gov](mailto:james_cason@ios.doi.gov)>, Megan Bloomgren <[megan\\_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov](mailto:megan_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov)>, "Swift, Heather" <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)>, Micah Chambers <[micah\\_chambers@ios.doi.gov](mailto:micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov)>, "Magallanes, Downey" <[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)>, "Bauserman, Christine" <[christine\\_bauserman@ios.doi.gov](mailto:christine_bauserman@ios.doi.gov)>, Laura Rigas <[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)>, Caroline Boulton <[caroline\\_boulton@ios.doi.gov](mailto:caroline_boulton@ios.doi.gov)>

Attached and copied below.

#### **DOI DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 5/16/17**

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

NOTE: David Bernhardt, the President's nominee for Deputy Secretary will have his confirmation hearing on Thursday.

NOTE: The Department held several events recognizing law enforcement today.

NOTE: DOI Office of Wildland Fire & U.S. Forest Service will raise the National Preparedness Level (PL) from 1 to 2, effective 2:00 p.m. MDT today. At PL 2, significant wildland fire activity is increasing in a few geographic areas. Resources within most areas are adequate to manage the current situation, with light to moderate mobilization of resources occurring through the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC). The potential for emerging significant wildland fires is normal to below normal for the time of year.

#### **Status of the Secretary**

TODAY: The Secretary will:

- Travel from Montana to DC.
- Meeting with DC Mayor Bowser (CANCELLED)
- NEC Principals Meeting: Infrastructure

**THIS WEEK**

- 5/17: Meeting with the Alaska Federation of Natives
- 5/17: Meeting with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- 5/17: Meeting with Rep. Collins
- 5/18: Interview with GQ.
- 5/18: Call with Senator King
- 5/19: Call scheduled with Rep. Greg Walden, Rep. Culberson, Rep. Tom Cole.

Long Range: 5/25-5/28. The Secretary will participate in a CODEL sponsored by Senator Murkowski. Arctic Council. Norway, Greenland, Alaska. The Secretary is set to keynote the Alaska Oil & Gas Association meeting in Anchorage 5/31.

**Upcoming Media**

OLICE WEEK VIDEO: <https://www.doi.gov/video/national-police-week-2017>

**Speaking Invitations**Accepted

- 5/31 Alaska Oil and Gas Association Conference remarks in Anchorage
- 6/6 Recreation Vehicle Industry Association Joint Committee Lunch (DC)

Regretted

- 5/16 Western Growers' Board of Directors Meeting (DC)
- 5/19 Montana Logging Association Annual Meeting (Bozeman, MT)
- 5/19 Haskell Indian Nations University Commencement (Lawrence, KS)
- 5/19 Montana Marine Corps League Convention (Anaconda, MT)
- 5/19 Laffer Associates Conference (DC)
- 5/20 Zoar Maifest National Historic Landmark Designation (Zoar, OH)
- 5/20 Mineral County Community Support Group's Annual Armed Forces Appreciation Day (Superior, MT)
- 5/23 7th Annual Massachusetts Fallen Heroes Dinner (Boston, MA)
- 5/23 Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Mid-Year Convention (Portland, OR)
- 5/24 Virginia Chamber of Commerce Energy Conference
- 5/24 National Wildlife Refuge Association (DC)
- 5/28 Rolling Thunder Demonstration Run (DC)
- 5/29 Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Memorial Day Event (DC)
- 6/3 Ducks Unlimited National Convention (San Antonio, TX)
- 6/4 Annual Native American Economic Development Conference (Las Vegas, NV)
- 6/4 Montana American Legion Boys State Session (Helena, MT)
- 6/5 Society of American Indian Government Employees Annual Training Program (Scottsdale, AZ)
- 6/12 Association of American State Geologists Annual Meeting (Branson, MO)
- 6/13 National Conference of American Indians (Mohegan Sun, CT)
- 6/13 National Marine Sanctuary Foundations's Ocean Awards Gala (DC)
- 6/14 Western Farm Bureaus Meeting (Coeur d'Alene, ID)

**Outstanding Invitations in Process**

- 5/23 Southwest Border Forum (Phoenix, AZ)

5/25 US Oil & Gas Association Board of Directors Meeting (DC)

### **Emergency Management**

In Georgia, the West Mims Fire in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge has burned 152,147 (no change) acres. The fire is 18-percent (no change) contained and managed by a Type-1 Incident Management Team with 944 (+49) personnel, including 152 (+20) DOI personnel. There are 800 (no change) residences and 7 (no change) commercial structures threatened. There have been 6 (+1) responder injuries reported. Portions of the refuge remain closed to the public. The containment date is November 1.

The Crown Mountain Fire, which began on May 14 within the Big Bend National Park in Texas, has burned 1,041 acres. The fire is 60-percent contained and managed by a Type-3 Incident Management Team with 156 personnel, including 36 DOI personnel. The fire has resulted in several trail and campground closures, and 300 people have been evacuated. There have been no injuries. The containment date is May 22.

### **Media of Interest**

#### **Secretary Zinke Announces \$23.6M For Water Conservation.**

TriplePundit (5/15, Casey) reports that on Friday, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “announced a \$26.3 million round of funding aimed at boosting water supplies in seven western states.” The \$23.6 million comes through the Bureau of Reclamation. Zinke said, “This funding provides essential tools for stretching limited water supplies by helping communities reclaim and reuse wastewater and impaired ground or surface waters ...These tools are just part of the toolkit for bridging the gap between water supply and demand and thus making water supplies more drought-resistant.”

#### **More Time For Public Comment Urged On Bears Ears National Monument.**

The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (5/15, Maffly) reports that “the 15-day window for public comment on Utah’s Bears Ears National Monument is closing fast, prompting calls on the Department of Interior to expand the comment period beyond May 26 and to add ways for interested residents to weigh in on the controversial designation and 26 other large monuments.” The article also points out that “Interior officials are soliciting input on the matter online through the federal website [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), despite the lack of internet access among some American Indians affiliated with the tribes that either proposed or support the 1.3-million-acre monument.” Monument advocates also say “they were largely excluded from engaging with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke during his four-day swing through Utah last week on a ‘listening tour’ organized by Gov. Gary Herbert’s staff.”

#### **Interior Deputy Secretary Nominee Bernhardt To Face Senate.**

The Hill (5/15, Cama, Henry) reports that Interior Deputy Secretary nominee David Bernhardt is scheduled to testify before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Thursday. The article notes that “the former George W. Bush administration veteran was unanimously confirmed to the No. 3 spot at Interior in 2006, a fact likely to come up from Bernhardt’s supporters at the hearing.” However, “greens and conservation groups, not to mention some Democrats, oppose Bernhardt’s nomination on conflict of interest grounds,

raising the prospect of a more bitter confirmation process than for other nominees who went through the energy panel.” But “Bernhardt is likely to find strong support among Republicans: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has praised his ‘extensive experience’ and ‘legal career’ as ‘exactly what is needed to help streamline government and make the Interior and our public lands work for the American economy.’”

**Op-Ed: Secretary Zinke Is “Promoting True Conservation”.**

For the “Pundits” blog of The Hill (5/15, Hoffman, Contributor), Gabriella Hoffman, a conservative media strategist and consultant, writes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s “reverence for angling, hunting and the outdoors means that he is promoting true conservation in his new post instead of preservation.” Hoffman draws a distinction between conservation, which is “seen as the proper use of nature,” and preservation, which “aims to protect nature from any use.” According to Hoffman, “the latter philosophy has prevented Americans from fully enjoying opportunities in nature.”

**Petition Seeks Halt To Cape Cod National Seashore Coyote Hunts.**

The Cape Cod (MA) Times (5/15, List) reports that “nearly 3,000 people have signed a petition calling for the Cape Cod National Seashore to ban the hunting of carnivores, such as coyotes, shorten the hunting season for other animals and fund the research of carnivores in the park.” The petition “also asks the Seashore to hire Jonathan Way, who currently works as a part-time ranger, for a full-time or term position as a biologist to study Eastern coyotes in the Seashore.”

**Pence Tells Crow Tribe: “War On Coal Is Over.”**

Montana Public Radio (5/15, Yamanaka) reports Vice President Pence told the Crow Tribe on Friday in Montana, “On behalf of the President of the United States I am here to announce the war on coal is over.” Crow Tribe Vice Chairman Carlson Goes Ahead told Pence during the visit that the tribe’s coal mine is “the lifeblood of the Crow,” but he said the recent downturn in the coal market and EPA regulations have hurt their economy. Goes Ahead advocated for the Administration having coal export terminals built on the Pacific Northwest coast to link US coal markets to Asia and for Congress making permanent the Indian Coal Production Tax Credit.

**White House Communications Report**

Report was sent Monday.

**Inquiries**

- A number of local outlets (REQUEST) Looking for the Department’s statement regarding the temporary pause in FACA committees. (RESPONSE) – “The Secretary is committed to restoring trust in the Department’s decision-making and that begins with institutionalizing state and local input and ongoing collaboration, particularly in communities surrounding public lands. The Department currently has more than 200 boards, committees, and other internal and external advisory functions that are authorized to solicit input and meet periodically. To maximize feedback from these boards and ensure their compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the President’s recent executive orders, the Department is currently reviewing the charter and charge of each Board/Advisory Committee. This

review process necessitates the temporary postponement of advisory committee meetings. As the Department concludes its review in the weeks ahead, agencies will notice future meetings to ensure that the Department continues to get the benefit of the views of local communities in all decision-making on public land management."

### Top Stories

- Washington Examiner: Secretary Zinke Lays Out Vision For His Department.
- Deseret News: Our journalists applied a little horse sense to Zinke's visit

Additional coverage of Zinke's trip to Utah was provided by the New York (NY) Times (5/14, Turkewitz), the Deseret (UT) News (5/13, Wilks), the Kitsap (WA) Sun (5/12, DeMille), the St. George (UT) Spectrum (5/12, DeMille), and the High Country (CO) News (5/12, Worby) Sacramento (CA) Bee (5/14, Madrigal), the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (5/13), the Albuquerque (NM) Journal (5/14, Simon), the Ventura County (CA) Star (5/14), the Ukiah (CA) Daily Journal (5/14), the Flathead (MT) Beacon (5/13, Sr.), Townhall (5/13, Driessen), and the Canada Free Press (5/14, Driessen)

- Billings Gazette: VP Mike Pence says 'war on coal' is over during visit to Crow coal mine
- E&E Daily: Lawmakers Urge Secretary Zinke To Not Issue New Offshore Leases.
- Democrats Raise Concerns About Nominee For Interior Deputy. (Washington Examiner) (Huffington Post) (San Francisco Chronicle)

### Top Issues and Accomplishments

- Last week Secretary Zinke toured the Grand Staircase Escalante and the Bears Ears national monuments as part of President Trump's EO reviewing a number of large and controversial monuments. Dozens of media followed the trip. Very positive local coverage. A physical package of local clips will be sent.
- This week, Secretary Zinke is in D.C.
- TODAY – Secretary Zinke tweeted a Police Week video (featuring VP Pence)
- TOMORROW – DOI will send the Police Week video (featuring VP Pence) to newsletter subscribers
- FRIDAY – The National Park Service will announce the price of the Senior Pass will increase to \$80. This is a Congressionally-mandated increase.
- NEXT WEEK – The NPS will announce the cost of the deferred maintenance backlog

### Federal Register Listings

The following items were cleared for the FR on Monday.

0007000 FWS Incidental Take Permit Applications Received to Participate in American Burying Beetle Amended Oil and Gas Industry Conservation Plan in Oklahoma This is a batched notice of availability for Incidental Take Permit applications under the amended Industry Conservation Plan for American Burying Beetle. Notice 05/15/2017.

REG0006995 ONRR Postponement of Public Meeting: U.S. Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative Advisory Committee. Postponement of the U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for June 7-8, 2017. Notice 05/15/2017.

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